Executive Broclamation State of South Dakota Office Of The Governor

Three Hundred and Sixty-four years ago this November, the Pilgrims of Plymouth were gathering their first fall harvest in anticipation of the winter ahead. Although their ranks had been cut in half by the brutal realities of winter in the New World, they were still very thankful for their small harvest and they prayed for strength in the bitter cold months ahead.

Living had been a daily challenge in this new land, but these early pioneers had gained strength from the friendships they had made with the Indian people. The Indians had taught them to hunt in this beautiful land of plenty, they had shared with the Pilgrims effective techniques of fertilization, and they had given the White Man the corn of native America.

To celebrate this gracious thanksgiving, the Pilgrims joined with the Native Americans for three days of delicious food, numerous lively contests of skill and strength, and the pleasurable warmth of friendly companionship. When the Indians had left, the settlers returned to preparations for the cold winter to come. Although they had known great suffering and loss, they were thankful for what they had: food, friends, families, and a fresh start in a New World.

Today, there is still suffering. And though this suffering is not the same as our ancestors endured, it is still a reality of life. Each day brings with it new challenges for every one of us. But fortunately, we all have something for which we can be thankful. It may be a sunny day, a smile from a friend, or the celebration of life itself. Our forefathers endured these hardships Three Hundred and Sixty-four years ago so that you and I would have a home. And they broke bread with their brothers and sisters in hopes that there would be sharing, caring, and thankfulness for centuries to come:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 28, 1985, as

BE THANKFUL FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

in South Dakota, with hopes that you have something to be thankful for today,



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirteenth Day of November, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Five

ATTEST:

WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR